



Board of Education

Minutes of
The Board of Education

A Regular School Board Meeting of the Board of Education of Fort Smith Public Schools was held Monday, July 17, 2023, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Service Center, Bldg. B, Auditorium, 3205 Jenny Lind, P.O. Box 1948, Fort Smith, AR 72901.

Mr. Person, president, called the meeting to order noting six board members were present. Other board members present were: Mr. Phil Whiteaker, Mr. Matt Blaylock, Mr. Davin Chitwood, Ms. Sandy Dixon and Ms. Susan Krafft. District administrators present included: Dr. Terry Morawski, Superintendent; Mr. Martin Mahan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Chris Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Campus Support; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Vance Gregory, Director of Technology; Mr. Shawn Shaffer, Executive Director of Facility Operation; Ms. Shari Cooper, Director, Communications; and Ms. Leslie Phelps, Office Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Ms. Talicia Richardson arrived at 5:33 PM.

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Mahan presented the following recognitions:

These schools were recognized for achieving Level I certification for High Reliability Schools:

Ballman Elementary	Cook Elementary	Morrison Elementary
Barling Elementary	Euper Lane Elementary	Park Elementary
Bonneville Elementary	Fairview Elementary	Sunnymede Elementary
Carnell Elementary	Howard Elementary	Woods Elementary

Spradling Elementary was recognized for achieving Level II certification for High Reliability Schools.

Orr Elementary was recognized for achieving Level III certification for High Reliability Schools. Orr is the first school in the district to receive Level III accreditation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Morawski updated the Board on a couple of key dates coming up: Launch for Learning August 10 and the next regular school board meeting will be August 28.

Dr. Morawski reported to the board a new job listing for Dean of Students. This position will be used to process disciplinary actions and to assist administration at the campus. This position will be at each of the high schools.

The board was informed that the district's property insurance rates increased by more than 100% this year. This was common throughout the state. The increase is due to a large number of claims across the state due to hail, storms, and tornados. The district is waiting on verification that the state will provide assistance for 30% of that increase. Mr. Warren stated in order to keep the premium more reasonable, the deductible was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Fort Smith Public Schools will be hosting the Hass Tech Education Community Conference at the Peak Innovation Center July 24 – 27, 2023. This is a nationwide event.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda included June 19 and June 21 Minutes, July Professional Staff Recommendations, and the Teacher/Administrator Recruitment Plan approval.

Ms. Dixon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whiteaker, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATION - DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mr. Velasquez invited each of the various team construction managers to present an update to their projects going on in the district.

David McWilliams and Byron Smith with Clark Contractors updated the board on projects they have been working on. Four of the projects are HVAC improvements and two campuses are classroom and fields. The HVAC upgrades at Chaffin and Ramsey are near completion. The units have been set for Chaffin just some programming work has to be done to complete this project. The third unit for Ramsey has not shipped yet but it will be replaced after school starts. Four rooftop units were replaced at Sutton Elementary, programming and controls is the only step left. 38 units are to arrive at Euper Lane the week of July 17th the work to replace these will begin. Mr. Smith stated this work should be complete before school starts. Mr. McWilliams stated the classrooms at Baptist and Mercy are both on track. The Mercy classroom will be completed by the start of school. The Baptist classroom should be complete no later than August 28th.

Kelly Wilson with Beshears Construction gave an update to the projects Beshears is working on. Morrison Elementary classroom addition will add 10 additional classrooms. They are currently digging out foundations and tying and setting rebar. The next step will be pouring the concrete slab. The Southside High School indoor air quality project was started in March 2023. The outside units are set and work on the inside has started. This work is being done in 12 of the business classrooms. Work on this project should be completed when school starts. Park Elementary indoor air quality project replaced 35 rooftop units. All units are set. Next will be to tie into gas piping and electrical. This project should be completed soon. At Darby Middle School, rooftop units were replaced on the gym. The units will arrive in September and work completed in October.

Robert Wiggins and Larry Mallard with Nabholz Construction reported on the indoor air quality projects at Fairview Elementary and Northside High School. At Fairview, 22 new rooftop units have been delivered and are installed. All systems should be commissioned in time for school to start. Northside required work on two different systems: decommissioning the existing hydronic system and upgrading to a VRF system and replacing 34 rooftop heating and air conditioning units. These units are scheduled to be delivered in November. Completion is forecasted for June 2024.

Clayton Vaden with Lewis Architect updated the board on the construction at Kimmons Middle School cafeteria. This project is on schedule to be open for the spring semester 2024. Construction on the front entrance to make it more secure is underway. There is a supply chain issue with getting the glass but it should be completed when school starts. The Kimmons Middle School indoor air quality project includes installing 12 rooftop units and should be completed when school starts.

Scott Archer with HAS Engineering presented the board with an update on the Ballman Elementary air quality project. The asbestos abatement has been completed. This project includes demolition to the existing HVAC system, which includes boilers and chillers, and installation of the new VRV system. The new system will include 5 new rooftop units. The cafeteria and auditorium work has not yet started.

Galen Hunter with MAHG Architecture gave an update on the FSPS School Based Health Clinic. The new permanent facility will be located at the corner of 14th Street and H Street. The clinic will be 3300 square feet and will consist of exam rooms, physicians' offices, a lab, and reception room. Once the drawings are approved from the Department of Public School Facilities, they will be sent out for bids. Mr. Hunter anticipates this construction will be complete by the end of June 2024.

Mr. Velasquez stated the Northside and Southside stadium lighting and controls are complete at both campuses. The contractor will schedule a time for training with the staff on that new equipment. Mr. Velasquez also reported demolition on the existing lights at the Southside theater has begun. The new house lighting installation will begin the week of July 24 and it should take about three weeks to complete.

Mr. Velasquez also gave an update on the Peak Innovation Center Drainage System. Facilities is currently in the process of receiving estimates on raising the east parking lot, assessing new drainage south of the office area (determine type of fittings that are needed at the connections and evaluate the capacity of the collecting pie), and abandoning the under slab roof drainage. The pipe that has a hole was left exposed to help alleviate any further flooding. However, due to the amount of water received during a recent rain event, water did enter the building on July 14. Mr. Velasquez requested facilities be able to move forward with abandoning the existing underground slab drainage system and to move forward with an exposed system in the unfinished warehouse. Facilities is currently talking with engineers to confirm this system will work but the estimate is \$160,000 to \$250,000 to complete that portion of work.

Dr. Morawski stated that due to multiple incidents in the same area of the building administration request approval from the board to abandon the under slab drainage at a cost not to exceed \$250,000. He also reminded the board the raising of the east parking lot and assessing the drainage south of the office area are still out for an estimate and will be an additional expense at a later date.

Mr. Velasquez expressed that the parking lot and drainage by the office area is not causing any intrusion problems in the building, however it is known the under slab drainage is causing problems and it needs to be remedied.

Mr. Person stated his thought is this needs to be repaired as soon as possible.

Mr. Whiteaker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Krafft, under the condition the cost does not exceed \$250,000 of abandoning the under slab roof drainage at the Peak Innovation Center.

Mr. Person noted in the event this project comes back at more than \$250,000 this item will be brought back to the board.

Mr. Blaylock requested clarification on how the abandonment was to take place. Mr. Velasquez explained that the south portion of the warehouse has exposed drainage running along the roof, which

is collected with some roof drains. That would be replicated on the building where the east and west buildings connect, therefore abandoning the internal gutter. The piping under the slab will be capped.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Velasquez introduced Scott Tucker with ServPro to give an update on the Ramsey Middle School fire restoration. A crew of over 90 personnel are working 7 days a week, 10 hours a day on this project. At this time, they are about 65% complete. A time line is to be determined when the fine arts wing and auditorium will be complete.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SALE OR DISPOSAL OF TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

Per policy, board members must approve a surplus of commodities for authorization of sale. These commodities not sold are considered to have no fair market value and will be disposed of by the district. The commodities listed are:

1. (256) Chromebook computers (Dell & HP)
2. (74) Dell Desktop Flat Screen Monitors
3. (70) Dell Desktop Towers
4. (59) Google Virtual Reality Goggles

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to authorize the sale and disposal of the commodities as listed. The motion passed 7-0.

ESSER INVENTORY CONTROL

Mr. Warren presented an update to this program of better understanding, monitoring, and creating internal controls over our inventory. Inventory is fixed assets as well as technology mobile commodities (TMC). TMCs can be one-to-one devices used by students or tablets and laptops used by staff.

On March 1, 2023 a Financial Coordinator was hired to help with this process.

This is an information item and no recommendation is required.

CONSIDER APPROVING CHILD NUTRITION SCHOOL MEAL PRICES 2023-24

Dr. Morawski noted that last year there was not a price increase to meals, only to the price of milk.

Mr. Warren introduced a request to increase a variety of prices to meal prices.

Meal Type	Full Pay		Reduced		Adult Staff		Adult Guest	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Breakfast – Elementary	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$0.40	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Breakfast – Secondary	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$0.30	\$0.40	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Lunch – Elementary	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$0.40	\$0.50 \$0.40	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
Lunch – Secondary	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$0.40	\$0.50 \$0.40	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00

Free breakfast is provided to students Kindergarten- 12th grade. The highlighted programs are prices if a student requested a second breakfast. Mr. Warren also pointed out the small incremental prices in the lunch for the adult staff. The last increase to the price of a school lunch was 2018.

When asked if Mr. Warren believed if the district would stay at 70% free or reduced lunches for the 2023-24 school year, he replied that he believed it would remain around the 70% or more free or reduced population.

Ms. Richardson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chitwood, to approve the child nutrition meal prices as presented for 2023-2024 with the amendment of the reduced lunch prices as mentioned in red. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATION - EXIT SURVEY DATA

Dr. Davis presented information and trends found from exit survey results.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the district had a total of 237 resignations and 59 retirements. This was a 14% decrease in retirements and resignations from the previous year. The exit survey focused on what exiting employees thought were areas of strength and areas of improvement throughout the district.

All exiting employees receive an email from human resources with an invitation to schedule an exit interview.

With the information gathered in the exit survey and the exit interviews human resources can take that information and develop what are the next steps to address concerns and areas of improvement.

Ms. Richardson requested that substitutes be incorporated in the survey as well.

This is an information item and no recommendation is required.

BOARD MEMBERS FORUM

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be Monday, August 28, 2023.

Dr. Morawski thanked the board for the support of the meal prices and the Peak project.

ADJOURN

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

President, Board of Education

Secretary, Board of Education